

**Emergency Management Council  
Meeting Minutes  
September 10, 2009  
Camp Murray  
DRAFT**

**Members/Alternates Present:** Jim Scharf, Police Chiefs & **EMC Chair**; Dale Jensen, Dept. of Ecology & **EMC Co-Chair**; Major General Timothy Lowenberg, Military Dept; Steve Bailey, State Emergency Management Directors; John Erickson, Dept. of Health; Bill Gillespie, Search & Rescue; Mike Matlick, Fire Protection Bureau; Ron Weaver, Military Dept; Martin Best, Mason County/WSEMA; Brian Schaeffer, Local Fire Chiefs; Richard Hildreth, Association of Washington Cities; L. G. Nelson, WABO/City of Centralia; Dave Norman, Dept of Natural Resources; Paul Pastor, Pierce County Sheriff

**Attendees:** Dennis Hunsinger, FEMA Region X; Dave Hodgeboom, Dept. of Agriculture; Cindy Gleeson, Dept. of Health; Lee Shipman, Shoalwater Bay Tribe; Darrell Ruby, Region 9 HLS Coordinator; Kathryn Howard, King County OEM Regional Coordinator; Helen Ahrens-Byington, City of Kirkland; Stephanie Day, City of Kirkland; Barb Thurman, OSPI; Ryan Warner, WA. Dept. of Transportation; Hillman Mitchell, City of Tukwila; Mike Iydl, Cowlitz Indian Tribe

**EMD/MIL Present:** Roger Hieb, Maillian Uphaus, Wendy Freitag, Nancy Bickford, Bev O'Dea, Kurt Hardin, Terry Egan, John Schelling, Christine Dill, Dalton Gamboa

**Call to Order:**

The Chair called the meeting to order and asked all members and guests to introduce themselves. A quorum was established.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes of the July 23, 2009 EMC Meeting were approved.

**Adjutant General's Remarks:**

General Lowerberg was leaving today for Thailand, along with fire fighters and fire service personnel from Seattle. While there, the General will attend a major Thai National exercise at a port with the capacity approximately the same as ports in New York and New Jersey. 29% of all out bound cargo from this port in Thailand is bound for the Port of Tacoma. The security in that Thai Port directly impacts the security at ports in Washington.

On September 1<sup>st</sup>, there was a prep session for all state elected officials and the Governors cabinet level personnel for a table-top exercise on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Participants will deal with a natural catastrophic incident while also at the peak of an H1N1 Pandemic.

On September 8<sup>th</sup> the General coordinated the Governor's H1N1 Summit at SeaTac. Included in this summit were law enforcement, emergency management, public health and private industry. The purpose for the summit was to let those attending learn what the state knows about H1N1 and what the state agencies are doing based upon what they know.

The General commented that the new presidential administration is very engaged and pro-active. FEMA and their new director, Craig Fugate, is making very decisive and role policy shifts in how they are preparing for field operations. All other agencies of DHS are equally pro-active, open and engaged.

In regards to the Howard Hanson Dam issue, the General noted that the Governor has forwarded a second request for advanced measures to the Corp of Engineers for them to expend sixteen million dollars to acquire sand and equipment to enhance the levy structures in the Green River Valley. 32 of the 54 miles of these levies need to be reinforced. One possibility is that these 32 miles of levies would be elevated and other measures are being considered. The Governor has created a flood response sub cabinet with the General as the lead. All principal affected state agencies will be included in this sub cabinet and regular meetings of this sub cabinet will be conducted. The General noted that to date cooperation of all parties involved in the Howard Hanson Dam situation has been very positive.

#### **EMD Director's Remarks:**

Jim Mullen was not able to be present at this meeting, so no update was available.

#### **WSEMA Update:**

Steve Bailey noted that WSEMA will hold it's annual conference next week in Lincoln City, Oregon. This is a joint conference with Oregon and it appears that attendance will be good. WSEMA is getting geared up for the upcoming legislative session.

#### **FEMA Region X Update:**

Dennis Hunsinger, the acting Regional Administrator for Region 10, reported that there is still no permanent regional administrator appointed for Region 10. He noted again that the U.S. Government had set up 5 "Super Regions" to deal with the pan flu event. Regions 9 & 10 will be incorporated into Super Region E. The federal lead for pan flu is Nancy Ward, FEMA Region 9 Administrator. Representatives from both Regions 9 & 10 met recently on how they will respond to the pan flu incident and what will "trigger" FEMA teams reporting to a state EOC to work together on the event.

Another item is that FEMA Administrator, Craig Fugate, signed a memo that delegated approximately 12 to 14 duties from FEMA headquarters to the regional administrator. One of the key duties that was given to the regional administrator was that they now have the authority to approve add-on counties to a Stafford Act Disaster Declaration.

Along with this authority is the ability for the regional administrator to approve all project worksheets, even ones that are over a million dollars.

**Roundtable-Listening Session with Local Emergency Managers in Eastern Washington at July EMC Meeting:**

Jim Scharf noted that there was great attendance by the tribes and local emergency management officials from Eastern Washington at this meeting. Those in attendance were not shy about expressing their concerns and issues such as lack of manpower and resources as compared to Western Washington. General Lowerberg noted that these issues are not so much between Eastern & Western Washington as they are between urban and rural jurisdictions. There were several comments by those in attendance at today's meeting regarding the issues of how funding for local emergency management programs is appropriated by the federal government. There was a consensus of opinion that reliance on federal dollars to fund local emergency management programs, which is declining, be augmented by some type of state funding stream for sustainability. There were notes taken at the July EMC meeting on the listening session and they will be made available on the EMC FTP Site and that address is <ftp://75.146.54.46/EMC/>

**Briefing on the Howard Hanson Dam Issue:**

Terry Egan, Unit Manager for Plans, Exercise & Training at EMD, had a presentation on the Howard Hanson Dam issue and this presentation will be made available on the EMC FTP Site. Some of the key issues are:

After the January 09 flooding event, the Corps of Engineers noticed 2 small depressions in the dam which caused the corps to look at the capacity of the dam. What they found was that the dam can't do what it was built to do to hold back the capacity it held back previously.

The Howard Hanson Dam was built over 50 years ago and prior to that the Green River Valley flooded almost every year.

Cities at risk are Auburn, Kent, Renton & Tukwila.

If levies on the Green River are breached or over-topped approximately 22,000 people would be displaced and there would be a need to shelter approximately 4 to 5 thousand of the displaced residents.

Possible physical damages of levy failure could be over 3 billion dollars and 45 million dollars a day in lost revenue.

EMD, in conjunction with the affected cities and King County hope to have plans in place for evacuation, sheltering and reinforcing the low areas in the levy system by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**H1N1 Update:**

Cindy Gleeson, Pan Flu Coordinator for the Dept. of Health, gave a presentation on H1N1 and that presentation will be made available on the EMC FTP Site. Some key items are:

The H1N1 Flu is a respiratory disease.

Transmission is by coming in contact with the large droplets of the infection and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

H1N1 is considered a pandemic because it is occurring around the entire world and it is easily transmitted from person to person.

The best prevention for H1N1 Flu is to get immunized, just as you should do for the seasonal flu. The first supplies of this vaccination are expected by mid October.

**Committee & Working Group Reports****Committee on Homeland Security:**

Committee Co-Chair, John Erickson, noted that the next CHS Meeting will take place on September 18<sup>th</sup> and they will be putting a CBRNE presentation together on such programs as Bio-Watch.

**Seismic Safety Committee:**

Committee Chair, Dave Norman, said the last meeting of this committee was held on August 6<sup>th</sup>. The committee continues to work on 2 main areas and they are school seismic safety and developing a resilient state document. Dave also noted that there will be a drop, cover and hold statewide drill on September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**State Emergency Response Commission:**

Commission Chair, Brian Schaeffer, said the last meeting was a strategic planning session and the goal of the next meeting will be to put together a strategic plan.

He also noted that the HMEP Grant Selection Board met on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and awarded the 2010 dollars in the amount of \$87,000 to 15 different tribes and jurisdictions.

**Local Programs Workgroup:**

Workgroup Chair, Marty Best, said the matrix should be completed by the middle of October and by the next EMC Meeting this group can present the matrix and the narrative.

**Public-Private Partnership:**

Wendy Freitag noted that September is National Preparedness Month and this group had several activities planned for the business community to bring about awareness for mitigation and preparedness planning for business continuity. With the 2 major threats of H1N1 and Howard Hanson Dam, the business community is really aware of the importance of business continuity planning. Some of the activities are:

9/23 – A business resiliency webinar with SBA, IRS, FEMA and the Office of the Insurance Commissioner during the day. That night there will be a multi chamber of commerce sponsored event titled “Are you flood ready”.

9/24 – There will be a statewide GETS Card (Government Emergency Telecommunication System) test.

9/26 – There will be a NOAA Weather Radio promotion with 11 local jurisdictions participating.

**Recovery-Restoration Workgroup:**

Workgroup Co-Chair, Kurt Hardin, passed out a handout that summarized the activities of the group and this handout will be posted to the EMC FTP Site. A few key activities were:

- Working on input to the State Preparedness Report

- Doing a school recovery survey

- Working on an ESF 14, Long Term Recovery, document for the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan

**Old & New Business:**

Jim Scharf asked the EMC Members to be thinking about priority issues that can be forwarded from the EMC, through the TAG, to the Governor. He asked that any ideas be forwarded to Maillian Uphaus so they can be discussed at the next EMC meeting.

The next EMC Meeting will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> at Building 104 on Camp Murray.

**Adjournment:**

Jim Scharf asked for further business, being none, he adjourned the meeting at 12:25 pm.